

**Cumbrian Martyrs' Parish
Syrian Refugee Family Sponsorship Group**

Meeting of 11/12/18

Present: Father Jim Allen, Mandy Howes, Maureen Dickinson, Joe McGarry, Zuzanna, Teresa Heath, David Carrick, Kathleen Carrick, Eleanor McGarry, Margaret Day, Peter Fisher, Donald Hitch, Andrew Heath (minutes), Ged Feeney

Absent: Gianni Minervini, Maureen Boyle

Father Jim volunteered to chair the meeting until a chair person had been appointed.

Andrew offered to be Secretary. This was agreed.

Father Jim proposed that Joe be Chairman - this was agreed. Father Jim also proposed that Teresa be Project Manager - this also was agreed.

With reference to the other key roles, Joe then asked in turn each person present in what capacity they would be willing to assist, with the results as follows:

Maureen D	family welfare; housing
Zuzanna	benefits & employment; accommodation
Don	conversational English
Kathleen	accommodation
David	finance
Peter	fundraising
Eleanor	homemaking; education of younger children
Mandy	family welfare; safeguarding
Ged	education
Margaret	fundraising; welfare
Father Jim	communications

Joe offered that he will also assist with safeguarding. Mandy has some contacts that may be able to help - she will seek their assistance. Also she will ask Maureen B in what areas she wishes to assist, and will inform Andrew.

There was some discussion about accommodation. It was agreed that this is probably the most pressing challenge. Andrew pointed out that before looking for rented housing the housing benefit available would need to be determined.

There was discussion about the requirement for interpreters. It is understood that interpreters will be required on a daily basis throughout the first few weeks of the family's arrival, and that this will be expensive. Joe added that he believes it may be necessary to provide both male and female interpreters.

Joe asked if those present were happy for their contact details to be circulated. This was agreed. Andrew asked if group members would like to receive meeting minutes by e-mail. This was agreed. The contact details will also be sent out. Andrew will ensure that those without e-mail receive a printed version.

Joe pointed out that the proposals that are put forward to the Home Office must be very detailed. Teresa suggested a six-month time-scale for producing the proposal.

Joe reported on the meeting that he had attended at St Augustine's, that covered the general approach to Syrian refugees in Carlisle. This meeting, at which Sean Ryan spoke, was also attended by Teresa and Maureen D. Joe learnt from the meeting that 10 or 11 families have been re-settled in Carlisle so far.

Regarding finance, Andrew asked when the money pledged would be collected. The answer is that we don't know yet, but David will look into it. Also Andrew asked about the possibility of Gift Aid for donations, and in which account money would be held. It was agreed that Gift Aid would be beneficial, and that this will be looked into. As for accounts, Joe thought probably the Parish account would be used, though again this needs to be looked into.

The general feeling was that it would be beneficial to have more people involved, in particular Arabic speakers.

Next Meeting Joe proposed that the next meeting be in mid or late January, and Tuesday 22nd January was agreed, with a start time of 7:45pm.

(Addendum: subsequent to the meeting Father Jim notified the Secretary that he had received a phone call from Maureen B, and that she wishes to assist with fund-raising).